THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The quantity of tobacco auctioned and the unit value realised during this year and the corresponding figures in the preceding two years are given below:—

Andhra Pradesh
(End of 20th week of auction)

Year	Quantity Marketed (M. Kgs.)	Average Price (Rs./Kg.)
1991	89.17	33.00
1992	121.01	28.28
1993	122.37	20.97

Karnataka

Year	Quantity Marketed (M. Kgs.)	Average Price (Rs./Kg.)
1990	20.31	26.44
1991-92	26.41	42.13
1992-93	33.24	26.52

Imposition of Levy on the Sale of Cigarettes

528. DR. YELAMANCHILI SHIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations to impose Levy on the sale of cigarettes and to create Market Stabilising Fund for tobacco; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Andhra Pradesh State Tobacco Ryots All Party Action Committee submitted a Memorandum dated 13-4-93 representing inter-alia to impose a levy of 1% sur-charge on sale of cigarettes and to utilise the amount collected as market stabilisation fund for tobacco. The proposal is being examined by Government.

Removal of M.E.P. for Export of Tobacco

529. DR. YELAMANCHILI SHIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M.E.P. was removed for export of tobacco;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is its impact on the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) M.E.P. for FCV tobacco has been abolished as a measure of trade liberalisation.

(c) It is too early to assess the impact of abolition of MEP on exports.

Export of Marine Products

530. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 709 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd May, 1993 and state:

(a) whether MPEDA has conducted any study on how to achieve maximum potential of marine exports by full utilisation of ill and sick deep sea fishing vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what would be the increase in export of marine production in case of our country's ill deep sea fishing vessels were used optimally; and

(d) whether MPEDA is formulating any schemes to achieve the objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUD-

DIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Creation of Free Trade Zones

531. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the latest proposals with respect to creating Free Trade Zones in the Country;

(b) the cities, towns or areas which have demanded the creation of such Free Trade Zones; and

(c) what is the criterion for creating Free Trade Zones in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) There are six Export Processing Zones/Free Trade Zones functioning in the country. These are at Kandla (Gujarat), Bombay (Maharashtra), Cochin (Kerala), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Noida (UP), and Falta (West Bengal). A seventh Export Processing Zone is being established at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

State Governments of Karnataka, MP, Bihar, Sikkim, Punjab, Orissa, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan have, from time to time, requested for the setting up of an Export Processing Zone. The Central Government stand has been that keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise infrastructural facilities in the existing Zones, it would not be possible for the Government to consider developing new Zones in the country.

The criteria kept in mind while locating an EPZ include proximity to sea/airport, availability of basic infrastructural facilities like roads, power and water supply, banking, communication facilities and access to social infrastructure such as housing, health, educational, entertainment facilities etc.

Target for Expansion of Agricultural and Allied Products

532. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated target for exports of agricultural and allied commodities during 1992-93 and what is the actual achievement stating the earnings in terms of foreign exchange and the shortfall, if any, in the anticipated target; and

(b) what is the anticipated export target for agricultural and allied commodities during 1993-94 stating the manner in which the target is proposed to be achieved and the anticipated percentage of growth in terms of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The target was US $ 2000 million while the achievement was US $ 1946 million.

(b) The target fixed for 1993-94 is US $ 2255 million, a growth rate of above 15% on the provisional export figures for 1992-93. Government is giving special attention to the growth of exports in the agricultural sector. Towards this end in view, EXIM Policy 1992-97 has been further liberalised and the import duties on certain inputs and materials required by the agricultural sector have been lowered and made freely importable. Various incentives have also been included for the agricultural sector in the 1993-94 budget. These changes are expected to give an impetus to agricultural exports.

533. *[Transferred to 10th August, 1993]*.

Compilation of Commonly Used Items by DGS&D

534. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether DGS&D has compiled a list of common users items pursuant to its rationalisation and/or decentralisation, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether DGS&D holds RC for each such item;

(c) if not, what are the items for which RC could not be concluded, the pendency of delays in each such case and reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government envisage to revamp the organisation?